

## Message Text

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14

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 OMB-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /137 W

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R 101344Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9052

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 5430

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, UK

SUBJECT: LORD BALNIEL VISIT

1. DIRECTOR EUROPE TWO DIVISION (ANUG) BRIEFED REPORTING OFFICER JULY 9 ON RESULTS OF LORD BALNIEL'S ISRAELI VISIT (JUNE 30-JULY 3). ANUG OBSERVED THAT VISIT TOOK PLACE ON BRITISH INITIATIVE. LORD BALNIEL, IN FOREIGN OFFICE SINCE LAST NOVEMBER, HAD VISITED EGYPT, JORDAN AND LEBANON EARLIER THIS YEAR. ISRAELI VISIT INTENDED MAINLY TO DEEPEN HIS KNOWLEDGE OF AREA.

2. VISIT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNEVENTFUL EXCEPT FOR SPONTANEOUS UNREQUESTED REMARK BY BALNIEL'S ASSISTANT JAMES CRAIG TO MRS MEIR THAT ISRAEL FIRED FIRST SHOT IN SIX-DAY WAR. FOR 24 HOURS BRITAIN WAS ON RECORD AS STATING THAT ISRAEL WAS AGGRESSOR. TWO PRESS CONFERENCES, AT LOD AIRPORT AND LATER IN LONDON, TRIED TO MOLLIFY ISRAELIS AND DIMINISH SIGNIFICANCE OF INCIDENT. ANUG BELIEVES THAT ATTEMPTED RECTIFICATION AT LOD, IN WHICH BALNIEL OBSERVED THAT BRITAIN FIRED FIRST SHOTS AGAINST GERMANY IN WORLDWAR II BUT WAS NOT THEREBY AGGRESSOR, DISPLEASED ARABS  
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WITHOUT CLEARING AIR IN ISRAEL. IN ATMOSPHERICS, VISIT HAS HURT

BRITAIN WITH BOTH ISRAELIS AND ARABS.

3. ANUG BELIEVED THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO KNOW WHETHER BRITISH WILL TAKE ANY NEW INITIATIVE IN UNITED NATIONS OR OTHER FORUM IN NEAR FUTURE. BRITAIN, IN HIS VIEW, WILL NOT BE DISPLEASED IF US APPLIES VETO TO ANTI-ISRAELI RESOLUTION IN SECURITY COUNCIL. HE BELIEVES THAT BRITISH POLICY IN AREA IS TO IMMUNIZE BRITAIN FROM UNPREDICTABLE ANTI-BRITISH ARAB ACTIONS BY CURRYING ARAB FAVOR. PART OF THIS POLICY IS TO DEMONSTRATE TO ARABS THAT US IS ISOLATED IN ITS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AT UN.

4. AT MEETING WITH DAYAN, BALNIEL WAS PASSIVE LISTENER WHILE DAYAN EXPOUNDED HIS VIEWS ON THE PALESTINIAN SITUATION ALONG LINES OF HAIFA SPEECH JUNE 27 (TEL AVIV 5159). IN ANUG'S OPINION, BALNIEL WAS UNDERBRIEFED BEFORE COMING TO AREA. HE FELT THAT BALNIEL FAILED TO GRASP DIFFICULTIES FOR ISRAEL IN HARROGATE PLAN, OFFERED UNREALISTIC PROPOSAL FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND THOUGHT IT SIMPLE MATTER FOR GOI TO MAKE CONCRETE GESTURES TO ARABS.

5. ANUG NOTED THAT THERE IS NO GREAT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HARROGATE PLAN AND ROGERS PLAN, ALTHOUGH HE UNCERTAN IF LATTER STILL OPERATIVE TO OBSERVATION THAT ROGERS PLAN INVOLVED NEGOTIATIONS BEFORE WITHDRAWAL, HE ADDED THAT HIS REFERENCE WAS ONLY TO RESULTS ON MAP.

6. ANUG BELIEVED THAT POSITIVE RESULT OF VISIT FROM ISRAELI VIEW-POINT IS THAT BALNIEL MORE AWARE SERIOUSNESS OF ISRAELI POSITION. ISRAELIS HAD STRESSED UNWILLINGNESS TO WITHDRAW IN EXCHANGE FOR INADEQUATE PEACE AGREEMENT BUT ALSO STRESSED EARNEST INTEREST IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS.  
ZURHELLEN

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**To:** STATE  
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